



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7440

U.S. Attorney's Office Announces Sentencings in Pecos, Texas

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that yesterday in Pecos, Texas, U.S. District Judge Robert Junell handed down the following sentences:

- Juan Carlos Madrigal, 29, of Pecos, Texas was sentenced to 87 months in federal prison after having pled guilty to possession with the intent to distribute over 2,000 pounds of marihuana. On July 15, 2005, Madrigal was caught by U.S. Border Patrol Agents of the Marfa Station, Marfa Sector, after the agents found an abandoned Chevrolet Avalanche loaded with the marihuana on Pinto Canyon Road south of Marfa, Texas, and north of Ruidosa, Texas. Madrigal was found nearby and claimed no knowledge at the time, however, the keys to the truck were found in his possession. The case was investigated by the Alpine High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Drug Enforcement Administration task force and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney B. Dwight Goains.
- Octavio Gutierrez, Jr., 19, Joshua Jovan Martinez, 20, and Omar Darren Sandoval, 21, all of Odessa, Texas, were sentenced to 120 months, 92 months, and 70 months in federal prison, respectively, for their involvement in the possession with the intent to distribute over 3,100 pounds of marihuana. On July 21, 2005, these three defendants were involved in smuggling the aforementioned marihuana through the Big Bend National Park which was destined for the Odessa, Texas, area for further distribution. The marihuana had a street value of over \$2.5 million. Heather Raquel Del Valle and Miguel Angel Mendoza, Jr., both 20 years of age and from Odessa, were previously sentenced in November to 46 months in federal prison for their involvement. The case was investigated by the U.S. Border Patrol Big Bend National Park, Marfa Sector, Park Rangers of the Big Bend National Park and the DEA of both the Alpine and Midland offices. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James J. Miller, Jr.
- Daniel Dominguez, Jr., 22, formerly of Midland and Presidio, Texas, was sentenced to 151 months in federal prison for the possession with the intent to distribute over 4,300 pounds of marihuana. Dominguez was initially apprehended on July 17, 2004, south of Alpine, Texas, on a ranch road with over 2,100 pounds of marihuana. He became a fugitive and was caught on June 25, 2005, with 2,200 pounds of marihuana on Interstates 20 south of Pecos, Texas. The case was investigated by U.S. Border Patrol Alpine and Marfa Stations, Marfa Sector, Texas Department of Public Safety and the Alpine HIDTA DEA task force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney's B. Dwight Goains and James J. Miller, Jr.

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- Ariel Aurelio Lujan, 21, of Odessa, Texas, was sentenced to a total of 136 months in federal prison for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute over 880 pounds of marihuana, conspiracy to launder drug proceeds and the attempt to export a stolen vehicle. Lujan was involved in a large scale conspiracy to import and distribute marihuana from Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, to the Midland/Odessa, Texas, area. He recruited drivers to obtain marihuana in Mexico and transport it to Odessa, Texas, for distribution at street level. Lujan would also collect the proceeds and return the money back to the supplier in Mexico. On at least one occasion, he attempted to export a stolen truck from New Mexico to Mexico as payment for a load of marihuana. The case was investigated by DEA Alpine, U.S. Border Patrol Alpine, Marfa, Presidio and Van Horn Stations, Marfa Sector, Texas Department of Public Safety, Odessa Police Department and the West Texas Narcotics Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James J. Miller, Jr.

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